

Empowering Indian Country

Native American Heritage Month Observance - November 2018



U.S. Department of the Interior
Indian Affairs

Opening Ceremony

November 1, 2018 - 1:00pm-2:30pm

Auditorium, Main Interior Building (LiveStream@doi.gov/events)

- *Welcome*
John Tahsuda III, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Indian Affairs
 - *Color Guard*
 - *Invocation*
Spike Bighorn, Associate Deputy Bureau Director
Office of Indian Services, BIA
 - *Opening Remarks*
Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
 - *Keynote Speaker*
D.G. Smalling, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Artist
 - *Performance*
Hand Drum & Jingle Dress
-



See Posters for Other Month Events!

Observance Days
November 14
Veteran's Day – Honoring Native American Service



November 15
Rock your Mocs Day – Celebration of Unity and Tribal Individuality

November 29
Red Shawl Day – Awareness of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women



About the Artist

D.G. Smalling is a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma artist, and is best known for his one-line, continuous drawing technique in which his pen never leaves the paper until the image is complete. At the beginning of his artistic career, his mother made him promise not to paint things that are dark, cynical, nor macabre; as they are too easy to do. Smalling prefers to defend his joy.

"Every piece I create, regardless of scale, is one continuous line," said Smalling. "My work has evolved into an exercise of contemporary Southeastern 'neo-hieroglyphics,' the re-approach to hieroglyphic art of my Choctaw heritage, in a modern way, in terms of materials, techniques and subjects. The subjects I depict are rarely historical because I want to describe life today."

Smalling's art has been portrayed in several exhibitions, including featured artist at Epcot Disney World: State of Oklahoma Centennial Show in 2007, Grand Palais "Salon du Dessin et de la Peinture à l'Eau" in Paris, France in 2011, the National Museum of the American Indian "Choctaw Codetalkers Celebration" in Washington, DC, in 2012, and "Citizenship and Identity" BURN-IN Gallery (Vienna, Austria) sponsored by UNESCO.

In addition, Smalling has been commissioned to paint several portraits, including U.S. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Congressman Tom Cole, U.S. Deputy Attorney General James Cole, T. Boone Pickens, Sir Tony Blair former Prime Minister of the UK, and Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne, among many other notable dignitaries.